

Troy-Menands Bridge, NY 378 Crossing

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Draft Statement of Need, Purpose, and Objectives of the Project

April 2023

Project Need:

The Troy-Menands Bridge, NY 378, is an important Hudson River crossing that is nearing the end of its useful service life. While the existing bridge is safe for travel and has no load restrictions, it requires significant resources to maintain and repair the aging components of the structure. For these reasons, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has identified this bridge for future rehabilitation or replacement.

In addition to the structural needs, the existing bridge and approaches have several nonstandard geometric features including lane widths, shoulder widths, and sight distance limitations. These non-standard features combined with the congested conditions at nearby roadway intersections are contributing factors to the above statewide average crash rates both on the bridge and along the adjacent approaches.

Pedestrian accommodations are discontinuous and are generally not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There are no dedicated provisions for bicyclists or transit connections and access to the waterfront is limited. The sole connection to the waterfront is located on the west side of the bridge and does not meet ADA standards.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to have a Troy-Menands Bridge, NY 378, that provides a minimum design life of 75 years. The structure and approach roadways will be designed to current standards and will provide accommodation for transit, pedestrians, bicyclists, and access to the waterfront. Where possible, improvements will be made to address the recurring congestion and safety issues at the study area intersections.

Project Objectives

The primary objective of this project is to maintain this critical transportation crossing over the Hudson River through a structure that provides the following:

- A design life of at least 75 years
- Standard width lanes, shoulders, and other geometric features

Additionally, the structure and approach roadways must meet the existing and projected needs of the surrounding communities by addressing the following:

- Improve overall traffic conditions to reduce delay and provide acceptable level of service for a design period of 20 years at the study area intersections
- Improve safety by addressing the underlying causes of the higher-than-average crash rates
- Provide accommodations for transit, pedestrians, and bicyclists
- Enhance access to the waterfront to the Hudson River

The implementation of this project should provide an equitable and sustainable solution which:

- Minimizes impacts to the surrounding cultural and environmental resources
- Does not result in a disproportionate impact to specific communities or neighborhoods
- Considers the impacts of climate change on flooding and stormwater management
- Provides the best value to the People of the State of New York